Baker-Polito Administration

Combating Opioid Addiction



A Deadly Problem

In 2013, there were 978 estimated unintentional opioid-related deaths In Massachusetts.

This number represents a 46% increase over 2012.

Plymouth County

For every 1000 individuals who receive one or more schedule II opioid prescriptions, close to 17 exhibit concerning behavior

#1 Plymouth County: 17 #2 Bristol County: 15.7 #3 Barnstable County: 15.5







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Combating Opioid Addiction

Working Group

Collaborate with experts and a broad range of interest groups

Report back with specific, targeted and tangible recommendations to increase public awareness about these medications and reduce the rate of addiction



4 Regional Public Events

Listen to communities and ignite conversation and ideas.



16 Member Panel

Diverse backgrounds and experiences related to prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery support and law enforcement



Deadline: May



Help From Insurers

Develop best practices for opioid management

In the first 2 years of Blue Cross Blue Shields' Prescription Pain Medication Safety Program, claims for opioids such as Vicodin and Percocet decreased by 25 percent.



